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CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

OF

The Anglo-African Mutual Improvement and Aid Association

OF

NOVA SCOTIA.

PREAMBLE.

WHEREAS, it is perfectly consistent with the dictates of prudence and the interests of self-preservation, that men, for their mutual support and protection, and the advancement of their interests, should form themselves into an Association, thereby giving unto themselves that strength and importance belonging to Unity.

THEREFORE—We, the Colored Men of Nova Scotia, have unanimously agreed to form ourselves into an Association to guard and cherish our social rights, and advance our Financial as well as our Political interests, and have adopted the following RULES AND REGULATIONS for our future guidance and government:—

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

NAME, OBJECT, AND QUORUM.

SEC. 1.—This Association shall be called THE ANGLO-AFRICAN MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT AND AID ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA.

SEC. 2.—The objects of this Association shall be to afford relief and advice to indigent colored men, and to promote social intercourse and political interest among its members.

SEC. 3.—Seven members shall form a quorum

ARTICLE II.

PLEDGE.

SEC. 1.—I, "M. or N.," do hereby bind myself to conform to, and keep inviolate all the buisness and transactions of this Association.

ARTICLE III.

MEMBERSHIP.

SEC. 1.—*Eligibility*—No person or persons can be admitted as members of this Association other than men of color, and none under the age of 17 years.

SEC. 2.—*Proposition and Ballot*—The name, age, residence and occupation of a Candidate for membership, shall be presented in writing by one of the members of this Association, which shall be referred to a committee of investigation, consisting of three members who shall report at the next meeting, and if favorable, the Candidate shall be elected by acclamation.

SEC. 3.—Each person on becoming a member shall [illegible] to Article II. (2) and sign the Constitution.

ARTICLE IV.

FEES AND DUES.

SEC. 1.—*Admission Fees and Monthly Dues*—The admission fee shall be one Dollar, and the general fund dues Twenty cents per month, each member, to be paid at each meeting.

SEC. 2.—*Nonpayment of Dues*—When a member is three months in arrears for dues, it shall be the duty of the Financial Secretary to notify the delinquents, and if they fail to pay their dues for one month after, they shall be deprived from all benefits of this Association. Seamen excepted.

ARTICLE V.

OFFICERS AND TERMS.

SEC. 1.—*Titles*—The officers of this Association shall consist of President, three Vice Presidents, Secretary, Assist. Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain, Marshal, and Guard; they shall be elected semi-annually by ballot and majority vote.

SEC. 2.—*Vacancies*—In the absence of the President, the Vice Presidents are entitled to preside in order according to their seniority, other offices may be filled *pro tem* by the Presiding Officer.

ARTICLE VI.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

SEC. 1.—*President*—It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of this Association, and observe its concerns, notices of special meetings shall be issued by his order, to sign all

orders for money, and enforce due compliance with the Constitution and By Laws of this Association. He shall also inspect and announce the result of all balloting, and votes, but shall not vote himself except in case of a tie when all present have voted.

SEC. 2.—*Vice Presidents*—It shall be the duty of the Vice Presidents to assist the President in preserving order, and in bringing business to a speedy termination. They shall also preside over all meetings in the absence of the President, according to their seniority in office.

SEC. 3.—*Secretary*– It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a correct and impartial record of the proceedings of each meeting in a book provided for that purpose. He shall write all communications, notify members when ordered by the President, attest all money orders, and perform such other duties as may be required of him by the Association; he shall at the close of his term render a report of proceedings during his term, and deliver to his sucessor in office all books, papers or other property in his possession belonging to his office, within one week after the close of his term.

SEC. 4.—*Assistant Secretary*—The Assistant Secretary shall assist the Secretary, acting under his direction, and perform such other duties as may be required of him by the Association.

SEC. 5.—*Financial Secretary*—The Financial Secretary shall keep just and true accounts between this Association and its members, credit all amounts received, and pay the same over to the Treasurer, and taking a receipt thereof. He shall call the roll of members at each regular meeting and collect the dues, and notify the Secretary once a month of all members in arrears, and at the close of his term report fully on the financial state of the Association, and deliver to his successor, all books, papers and property belonging to his office, and perform such other duties as may be allotted to him.

SEC. 6.—*Treasurer*—The Treasurer shall give a bond of not less than fifty (50) dollars with such surety as may be approved by the Association, receive all monies from the Financial Secretary, and pay all orders drawn on him by the President, attested by the Secretary. He shall keep a full and correct account of all monies received and expended, and deliver to his successor in office, when legally called upon, all books, monies, papers and property of this Association or to whomsoever the Association may appoint. He shall perform such other duties that may be assigned him, and at the expiration of his term, render a full report of his transactions during his term in office.

SEC. 7.—*Chaplain*—It shall be the duty of the Chaplain to invoke the Divine Blessing at the opening and closing of meetings and administer spiritual consolation to any of its members when so notified.

SEC. 8.—*Marshal*—The Marshal shall have charge of all property belonging to this Association not committed to the care of other officers, marshall all processions, and perform such other duties as may be required of him, and at the end of his term, render a full report of the same.

SEC. 9.—*Guard*—The Guard shall have charge of the entrances to the room for meeting and shall see that no unworthy person enters.

ARTICLE VII.

BY-LAWS AND AMENDMENTS.

SEC. 1.—*By Laws*—This Association may adopt such By-Laws and rules of order as may be deemed advisable, provided they do not conflict with this Constitution, by a two-third vote of all the members present at a regular meeting.

SEC. 2.—*Amendments*—This Constitution shall be altered, annulled or amended only by a two-third vote of the members present at a regular meeting, after said notice of altering, annulling or amending shall have been recommended by seven members in good standing and shall have been laid on the table one month.

BY-LAWS

In connection with, and for the use of,

THE ANGLO-AFRICAN MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT AND AID ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA.

MEETINGS.

1. A regular meeting of this Association shall be held on the second and fourth Tuesday evenings of each month.

2. The hour of meeting shall be eight o'clock, and the hour of closing shall be ten o'clock.

FINES, PENALTIES, AND PRIVILEGES.

3. *Absence of Books.*—For neglecting to have the Secretary's Books of this Association present at any regular meeting a fine of twenty-five cents shall be imposed for each neglect.

FINES—HOW TO BE SETTLED.

4. All fines, inposed if not settled at the time, shall be charged by the Financial Secretary to the member from whom due, and shall stand against him as regular dues, and must be liquidated to entitle him to all the privileges of this Association.

DECORUM.

5. Should any member of this Association make observations, foreign to the subject under debate, or inconsistent with the regulations, they shall be called to order; and should they interrupt another while speaking, and refuse to come to order when called by the President, shall be subject to a fine of ten cents.

6. Should any member or officer, come to this Association under the influence of Liquor, or acting in a disorderly manner, or using profane language, shall be subject to a fine of fifty cents cash down if proven, and if not paid within one month, shall be subject to expulsion.

CONDUCT.

7. Any member convicted of a crime by any judical tribunal, may be suspended or expelled, according to the nature of the offence, by a majority vote of the Association, without any formal charge, notice or trial.

FUNDS—HOW APPROPRIATED.

8. The funds of this Association shall be deposited in the Dominion Savings' Bank by the Treasurer, and the President or one of the Vice Presidents, and in the name of this Association, and the Treasurer shall not keep in his possession any sum exceeding Five Dollars, and can only be drawn on order of the President countersigned by the Secretary.

9. No money shall be appropriated or used for any other purpose, than defraying the necessary expenses of this Association unless two thirds of all the members vote to do so.

COMMITTEES.

10. All Committees shall consist of not more than five members unless otherwise ordered.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

11. The President shall appoint the following Standing Committees on assuming his office, viz. :—

Committee on Finance.
Committee on Sick and Distressed.
Committee on Political Action.

DUTIES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

12. The Finance Committee shall audit all bills and accounts of this Association also the books and accounts of the Financial Secretary and Treasurer, and report at the close of the term the state of the Finance.

DUTIES OF COMMITTEE ON SICK AND DISTRESSED.

13. *Relief*—This Association cannot administer any relief until it has been in operation one calendar year.

14. *Sick*—Any member on producing a medical certificate of sickness shall be entitled to the sum of *one dollar* per week for the first six weeks, after which he shall receive the sum of *fifty cents* per week, not exceeding three months.

15. *Distressed*—In the case of distressed members, the Committee on Sick and Distressed shall immediately investigate said case or cases, and report to the Executive, who shall, with the co-operation of the Committee, render such aid as they may deem necessary.

16 *Political Action*—It shall be the duty of the Committe on Political Action to watch narrowly the Civic and Political arena, confer with, and lay before all Candidates for Civic or Political honors who may appeal to them individually or collectively for support, this Association, its objects, and our being debarred, as a people, from several public offices which we are capable of filling, and other privileges that we are justly entitled to as ratepayers They shall confer with all Candidates as a body representing the true interests of this Association, and work together in perfect harmony, they shall after hearing the pledge of Candidates, confer with the Executive of this Association to discuss the merits of the pledge given—the same to be conducted with harmony and decorum, and the action of the Political Committee must at all times be respected even in case of not meeting the views of the Association. They shall also introduce Civic and Political subjects for the consideration and discussion of the Association.

17. *Executive*—The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Vice Presidents, Recording and Financial Secretaries, Treasurer, Chaplain, and Marshal.

THE DEAD.

18. At the death of any member of this Association, each member shall be taxed the sum of *fifty cents*, which shall be paid within thirty days, and the sum of *twenty-five dollars* out of this amount shall be appropriated for interment expenses, and the balance, if any, to be given to the family of deceased. The amount shall not exceed

one hundred dollars. Members not complying with the provisions of this Section, shall forfeit all benefits accruing from this particular fund. Any member having been notified to attend the funeral of a Brother, and neglecting the same, shall pay a fine of *twenty-five cents*, unless a satisfactory excuse be rendered.

DUTY OF MEMBERS.

19. No member of this Association shall take part, vote or use his influence in any civic or general elections, without a meeting of this Association, and a report of the Committee on Political Action, and the decision of the meeting shall be recorded.

20. Candidates appealing to any member of this Association for their Franchise shall be referred to the Committe on Political Action.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE RULES OF ORDER OF THIS ASSOCIATION.

1. *Privileges*—The President may speak to points of order in preference to other members of this Association, rising from his seat for that purpose, and shall decide questions of order, subject to an appeal. No member shall speak more than once.

2. When an appeal is made from the decision of the President, he shall put the question thus: "Shall the decision of the Chair be sustained."

3. *Motions*—A motion must be seconded and afterwards repeated from the Chair or read aloud before it is debateable. A motion shall be reduced to writing if any member require it. All resolutions shall be submitted in writing.

4. Any member having made a motion may withdraw it with leave of his second, before it is debated, but not afterwards without leave of the Association.

5. Motion to amend an amendment to an amendment shall not be entertained.

6. An amendment destroying or altering the intention of a motion shall be in order, but an amendment relating to a different subject shall not be in order.

7. On a call for a division of the question, the majority shall decide. The call can only be granted when the division called for will leave distinct and entire propositions in the opinion of the President.

8. When two or more members rise to speak at the same time, the presiding officer shall decide who is entitled to the floor.

9. No member shall speak more than twice, nor longer than five minutes each time, on any question, without leave of the President, which leave shall be granted or refused without debate.

THE BUISNESS OF THIS ASSOCIATION SHALL BE TRANSACTED IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER :

1. This Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

2. The F. S. shall call the role of officers and members, note absentees, and collect dues and fines.

3 Reading, correction, and adoption of the minutes of previous regular session : also, minutes of all special meetings.

4. Reports of Committee on Investigation.

5. Balloting for persons previously proposed.

6. Initiation of Candidates.

7. Applications for membership.

8. Report of Committee on Sick and Distressed.

9. Report of Committee on Political Action.

10. Report of Special and Finance Committees.

11. Election and Installation of Officers.

12. Unfinished and Deferred Buisness.

13. New Buisness.

14. Good of the Association.

15. Closing Ceremonies.

Morning Herald Office, 58 *Granville Street, Halifax, N. S.*